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Youth Economic Opportunities and violence in Latin America and the Caribbean:

Unpacking the relationships and exploring solutions

Carolina Robino
IDRC

Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit
Washington DC
September, 27th

A policy priority

❑ RATIONALE

❑ OBJECTIVES

❑ Unpacking the relationship YEO violence

❑ Espacio Pulico Regional project

❑ Innovatons

❑ Breaking Stereotypes in El Salvador

❑ Youth in Post conflict Colombia

❑ Some lessons and questions

- OAS: Youth violence is the biggest challenge for social, political and economic stability in the region.
- The 5 highest homicide rates in the world are in LAC
- 41 out of the 50 most violent cities in the world are in LAC.
- El Salvador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala, and Brazil rank first in the world in terms of deaths from violence among young people: 77 out of 100 deaths among young men are caused by violence. Youth: victims and perpetrators and both.
- More than half of the youth population is affected by poverty.
- Unemployment rate (2015) -7%, amongst the youth -16%.
- 2 / 3 young workers employed in precarious jobs.
- + 20 million, 1 / 5 youth: NEET – poor groups & young women overrepresented



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- Does unemployment/lack of economic opportunities lead to violence? Is employment generation/economic opp a way to pull youth out of violence?
- **Policy options (and investments) made based assumption: youth** unemployment and lack of economic opportunities leads to violence SO: employment generation and economic opportunities = way to pull youth out of violence.
- **BUT:**
NO robust evidence to back up this assumption.



Objectives of the session

- Unpack the relationship between YEO and violence
- Share innovations to address the high violence / low opportunities equilibrium in the region

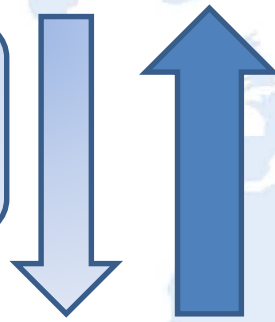
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Economic opportunities

**No
evidence**



violence

- Reduces spacial mobility (Jobs, education)
- Discourages entrepreneurship: less clients; increases costs (extorsion) & risks = less profitable.
- Stigma: Youth = violent Not hired by employers

Unpacking the Relationship: Espacio Publico: Millenials in LAC

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Colombia

☐ Questions

Innovations to address the high violence low opportunities equilibrium in the region:

- Glasswing Intl and Fusades: Social Inclusion through social Innovation - Margarita Beneke
- Fundacion Capital: Jovenes Activos – Veruschka Zilveti

Discussion and questions

Carolina Robino

Senior Program Specialist

Employment and Growth

International Development Research Centre

crobino@idrc.ca